

Message Text

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14

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TO AMEMBASSY LIMA

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E. O. 11652

TAGS: PFOR, OAS

FOR USDEL, OAS SPECIAL COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: EXCERPTS FROM ADDRESS OF CARLOS LLERAS RESTREPO
ON OAS REFORM

1. USOAS POUCHING FULL TEXT BOTH LANGUAGES OF ADDRESS
JUST RECEIVED BY FORMER COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT CARLOS LLERAS
RESTREPO, DELIVERED BEFORE CONTINENTAL CONFERENCE OF
JUNIOR CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE IN BOGOTA, JUNE 1 ST.

2. FOLLOWING EXCERPTS MAY BE OF REFERENCE VALUE:

1. " JUST AS WE HAVE SUFFERED FOR MANY YEARS FROM AN
INFERIORITY COMPLEX IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE
SOCIALIST WORLD, SO HAVE WE HAD SUCH A COMPLEX IN
OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, A COMPLEX FED
BY INTRANSIGENT NATIONALISM AND CERTAIN ANACHRONISTIC
POSITIONS OF THE EXTREME LEFT. WITH ALL DUE RESPECT
FOR THE POSITION OF OTHERS, I MUST SAY HERE, AS I HAVE

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SAID IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORUMS, THAT I DO NOT SHARE THE ATTITUDE OF THOSE WHO WANT TO DESTROY THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM OR REPLACE IT WITH A PURELY LATIN

AMERICAN SYSTEM WHOSE FOCAL POINT WOULD BE CECLA. THE INTER- AMERICAN SYSTEM IS THE OLDEST REGIONAL ORGANIZATION AND WE FOUGHT HARD TO PRESERVE IT WHEN THE UNITED NATIONS WAS CREATED."

2. " MUCH HAS BEEN DONE IN THE AREAS OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE, BUT A GREAT DEAL MORE COULD BE DONE. WHO COULD DENY THE ADVANTAGES OF MAINTAINING AND INTENSIFYING THESE EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICA, AS WELL AS AMONG OUR OWN NATIONS, OF CONTINUING SUCH EXCHANGE WITH WESTERN EUROPE AND INCREASING THE STILL INCIPIENT PROGRAMS WITH THE SOCIALIST WORLD AND WITH ASIA? I FREQUENTLY HEAR PEOPLE WHO EXPRESS A HOLY HORROR OVER WHAT THEY CALL THE INDOCTRINATION WHICH ACCORDING TO THEM IS PRACTICED ON YOUNG PEOPLE WHO STUDY IN THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES OR ON SCIENTISTS AND WRITERS WHO STRIKE UP A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOCIALIST WORLD. THESE ARE VOICES INSPIRED BY PREJUDICE AND INFERIORITY COMPLEXES, AS I HAVE ALREADY MENTIONED. BUT ARE THESE COMPLEXES AND PREJUDICES NOT THE SAME TYPE AS THOSE THAT OPPOSE TECHNICAL AND CULTURAL RELATIONS BETWEEN LATIN AMERICA AND THE UNITED STATES? IT IS NECESSARY TO STATE CLEARLY THAT THE AMERICAN REGIONAL SYSTEM MUST BE MAINTAINED AND PERFECTED, NOT ONLY IN THE JURIDICAL FIELD, AS I SAID EARLIER, BUT IN THE CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL FIELDS, AS WELL. IMAGINATION HAS BEEN LACKING TO CARRY OUT THE TASK; ERRORS HAVE BEEN COMMITTED AND STERILE BUREAUCRATIZATION CORRODES THE WHEELS OF THE SYSTEM. BUT WHY NOT TRY HARDER TO PURIFY THE ATMOSPHERE, ELIMINATE THE DEFECTS AND STEADY THE COURSE? AND WHAT PREVENTS US FROM SIMULTANEOUSLY ESTABLISHING AND FORTIFYING, WITH SIMILAR OBJECTIVES, WITHOUT POLITICAL INTERFERENCE, THE FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENTS WITH THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND MORE EFFECTIVE TIES WITH THE OTHER NATIONS OF THE THIRD WORLD?"

3. " THE NORMS OF THE CHARTER OF BOGOTA APPROVED IN 1948
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AND LATER CERTAIN ARTICLES OF THE PROTOCOL OF BUENOS AIRES, AS WELL AS THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE FIRST PUNTA DEL ESTE CONFERENCE, CONTRIBUTED TO GIVE TO THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM A DEFINITE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONTENT. SHOULD WE ABANDON IT? I DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD. RECENTLY, THE COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSED CONCEPTS SIMILAR TO THOSE THAT I AM SETTING FORTH. WHAT

IS LACKING IS DECISIVE, INTELLIGENT AND IMAGINATIVE
ACTION TO GIVE NEW VITALITY TO THE SYSTEM-- ACTION THAT

EXCLUDES POLITICAL ASPECTS, WHICH ARE TODAY OUT OF DATE,
AND WHICH STRENGTHENS FORMS OF COLLECTIVE COOPERATION
WITHOUT UNNECESSARY PUGNACITY. I CONSIDER THIS ROUTE
PREFERABLE TO THAT OF SIMPLE BILATERAL RELATIONS ABOUT
WHICH SECRETARY OF STATE ROGERS SPOKE RECENTLY.
PERSONALLY, I HAVE NEVER BEEN SATISFIED WITH THE WAY
IN WHICH CECLA HAS FUNCTIONED SINCE ITS SECOND MEETING,
WHEN IT DID NOT ADMIT THE UNITED STATES EVEN AS AN
OBSERVER. NOR HAVE I BEEN SATISFIED WITH OTHER ASPECTS
OF THE POLICIES OF THE SO- CALLED GROUP OF 77 IN VARIOUS
INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. THE DETERIORATION IN HEMISPHERIC
COOPERATION IS NOT THE FAULT ALONE OF THE UNITED STATES;
SOME OF THE BLAME BELONGS TO THE OTHER NATIONS. IS THIS
DETERIORATION IRREMIABLE? I THINK NOT AND I BELIEVE
THE POLICIES TO FOLLOW TO CORRECT IT SHOULD BE ONE OF THE
PRINCIPAL CONCERNS OF ALL OF US WHO STUDY PROBLEMS OF OUR
DEVELOPMENT."

RUSH

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